

ACTION
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TELEGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AFRICAN AFFAIRS
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INFO LOG-00 AID-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 SMEC-02 OAS-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 7309

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

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DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR A/AID

NAIROBI ALSO FOR DART TEAM

E.O. 12356: NYA

TAGS: PREL, ASEC, OVIP

SUBJECT: GOMA VISIT OF AID ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD

REF: A) STATE 190721; B) NAIROBI 12531

1. AS DEPARTMENT AND USAID ARE AWARE, EMBASSY CHARGE JOHN YATES AND A TEAM OF THREE ARRIVED IN GOMA, ZAIRE ON JULY 16 TO OBTAIN A FIRST-HAND ASSESSMENT OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS WHICH IS OCCURRING THERE. THEY ARE ALSO SETTING UP THE PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT OF AID ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN ATWOOD AND PARTY WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY, JULY 18.

2. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH MR YATES BY TELECEL FROM KINSHASA, AND THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST AND PERHAPS THE ONLY WAY TO GET THROUGH TO HIM. EVEN THIS IS DIFFICULT SINCE THE TELECEL SYSTEM HERE IS BY NO MEANS TECHNICALLY RELIABLE, ESPECIALLY GIVEN WEAK BATTERIES AND THE DIFFICULTY OF MAINTAINING A BATTERY CHARGED IN GOMA. HOWEVER, YATES AND TEAM HAVE FOUND A PLACE TO SLEEP AND HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH THE FRENCH MILITARY AND THE RELEVANT 46QS AND UN AUTHORITIES.

3. WE HAVE INFORMED MR YATES OF THE SCHEDULE OF THE CHARTERED AIRCRAFT FLIGHT CONTAINED IN REF (B) AND HAVE ALSO INFORMED THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE OF THE FLIGHT.

4. YATES TELLS US BY TELEPHONE AT NOON ON THE 17TH THAT THE PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT AS NOW CONSTITUTED WILL CONSIST OF A HELICOPTER OVERVIEW OF THE REFUGEE SITUATION (COURTESY OF THE FRENCH), VISIT TO SITES IN GOMA ITSELF, LUNCH WITH AID GROUPS AND CHIEFS OF DELEGATION, POSSIBLE

MEETING WITH THE GOZ AUTHORITIES (PERHAPS AT THE LUNCH, AND A MEETING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS SHORTLY BEFORE THE DEPARTURE SCHEDULED FOR 1400 GOMA TIME. WE HOWEVER MUST EMPHASIZE THAT THIS PROGRAM IS NOT AS FIRM AS IT

WOULD BE IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES: THE POOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND WITHIN GOMA AND THE LACK OF RESOURCES THERE ARE FACTORS WHICH WASHINGTON AND NAIROBI WILL APPRECIATE. HOWEVER, WITH THE LIAISON BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE EMBASSY TEAM IN GOMA NOW, WE TRUST THAT MR ATWOOD'S TIME IN GOMA WILL BE FRUITFULLY SPENT.

5. WE HAVE TOLD YATES THAT DAN EVERTS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM HOPED TO MEET THE ATWOOD DELEGATION IN GOMA

6. THE KENGO GOVERNMENT IS STILL IN THE INITIAL PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING ITSELF, AND IS STILL NOT WELL ORGANIZED. HOWEVER, WE HAVE INFORMED PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE OF THE ATWOOD VISIT, EMPHASIZING THAT IT IS A WORKING VISIT AND THAT NO PURELY PROTOCOL EVENTS ARE DESIRED. MEANWHILE, IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED (UNCONNECTED WITH THE ATWOOD VISIT) THAT VICE PRIME MINISTER (FOR INTERIOR) GUSTAVE MALUMBA WAS GOING TO GOMA TO REVIEW THE SITUATION FIRST HAND. YATES HAS NO INDICATION THAT THE ATWOOD AND MALUMBA VISITS WILL OVERLAP, BUT SINCE THE MALUMBA SCHEDULE IS NOT CLEAR TO US, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE TWO WILL MEET. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT MALUMBA OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS PART OF THE OPPOSITION (AS OPPOSED TO MOBUTUIST) SLATE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND IS GENERALLY THOUGHT TO BE A SERIOUS AND DECENT POLITICAL FIGURE HERE. A MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND THE AID ADMINISTRATOR

COULD PROVE BENEFICIAL, ESPECIALLY IN ENCOURAGING THE GOZ TO ATTEMPT TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS THE REFUGEES TO THE BEST OF ITS (POOR) ABILITY.

7. CHARGE YATES TOLD US THAT THE RADIO BROADCASTING FROM WHAT WAS (OR PERHAPS IS STILL) RWANDAN "GOVERNMENT" TERRITORY NEAR CYANGUGU HAS, IN REACTION TO THE USG ANNOUNCEMENT OF NON-RECOGNITION OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA, EXCORIATED AMERICA. YATES DID NOT HEAR THE RADIO BROADCAST HIMSELF, BUT WAS TOLD OF IT BY RELIABLE LISTENERS. HE DOES NOT ASSUME THAT THIS WOULD LIKELY AFFECT THE SECURITY OF THE ATWOOD VISIT, BUT IT IS NONTHELESS A TROUBLESOME DEVELOPMENT.

YATES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:
EDWARD W. HOLMES

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